

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

KATHLEEN BABINEAUX BLANCO, GOVERNOR



RICHARD L. STALDER, SECRETARY

November 22, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Pam Laborde
(225) 219-0499

New P & P Agents Ready for Supervision Roles *Agents Provide Vital Public Safety Role*

(Baton Rouge) Louisiana just got some help keeping its communities a little safer. The Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections graduated twenty (20) new probation and parole agents during a swearing-in ceremony Monday, November 22nd in Baton Rouge. The agents will be working in nine of the twenty-one district offices throughout the state.

Louisiana's approximately 550 probation and parole agents are responsible for supervising more than 60,500 offenders who are released from prison on probation, parole, diminution of sentence or medical furlough. Agents ensure ex-offenders are following the terms of their release and help them with other issues such as employment, educational opportunities or accessing substance abuse treatment or mental health services.

"Agents provide both economic and public safety benefits by using community based programs designed to facilitate the offender's adjustment and reintegration into society," explained Genie Powers, Director of Probation and Parole Division for the Department.

"If supervised ex-offenders follow the rules, the public is safer and the state saves money that would have otherwise gone to incarceration costs. On the other hand, agents provide prompt confinement of offenders who exhibit behavior that is a serious threat to others," said Powers.

--MORE--

Agents also provide investigative services to decision makers in the criminal justice system, including judges, Pardon and Parole Boards and the Governor's Office. They oversee the collection of various criminal justice fees, supervision fees and victim restitution.

New agents were required to complete the Department's P.O.S.T. (Peace Officers Standards and Training) Academy as well as a week of instruction on issues specific to Probation and Parole. Physical training, firearms training, self-defense and police and community relations were just some of the topics covered in the academy.

DPS&C Probation and Parole Academy #15

*Baton Rouge District
(East Baton Rouge Parish)*

Keith Bennett, Robert "Keith" Sibille, Kerri Smith

*Jefferson District
(Jefferson Parish)*

Christopher Boutte, Warren Perret

*Leesville District
(Beauregard, Vernon)*

Mark Cormier

*Shreveport District
(Bossier, Caddo)*

Dannie Davis, Jason Hodges, Cathy Lewis,
William "Wade" Patrick, Gary "Dan" Spangler

*Monroe District
(Caldwell, Lincoln, Union, Morehouse and Ouachita)*

Brian Hinson, James "Matt" Hinson, Aaron Phillips

*Amite District
(Livingston, St. Helena and Tangipahoa)*

Ryan Jenkins

*Thibodaux District
(Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche, St. Charles, St. James, St. John, Terrebonne)*

LeMichael "Lee" Munson, Mandie Waguespack

New Orleans District

Patrick O'Brien (NO- West)
Juliette Villaronga (NO-East)

Natchitoches District

Tiffany Slayter
(DeSoto, Natchitoches, Red River, Sabine and Winn)

The Honorable Edward Leonard of the 16th Judicial District addressed the graduates briefly on their roles as critical links in the criminal justice system before administering the agents their oath of office.

Individual awards were also handed out in three distinct areas. Patrick O'Brien was recognized for earning top scores for the Academic award. Keith Sibille scored the highest marks on the shooting range to capture the Firearms award and Dannie Davis edged out other athletic agents for the Physical Fitness award.

Academy instructors were very complimentary to the men and women of Academy #15. The class had the highest score of any previous academy in firearms training and the battle for academic honors was very tight – the top 3 finishers were within one percentage point of each other.

--END--